

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Alma Forest Fire Station and Helitack Base – Landslide Stabilization Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	CalFire’s Alma Fire Station/Helitack Base 19650 Santa Cruz Highway Los Gatos, CA 95030	COUNTY	Santa Clara
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire)		
CONTACT	Dan Foster, Senior Environmental Planner CalFire’s Sacramento Headquarters – Resource Management	PHONE	(916) 653-0839
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Two above-ground water tanks, located due south of the state property at Alma FFS/HB, recently overflowed which saturated the soils below the tanks and created a significant landslide. To repair the damage and stabilize the slope, the owner of the tanks has initiated a project which would build a retaining wall across the damaged area followed by slope stabilization treatments. Most of this work would be conducted on private property but the landslide also extended onto state property. The engineers working for the owner of the water tanks have requested approval from the state to extend project activities onto the state property. The project described here pertains only to the activities on state land. The state will issue an easement to the owner of the water tanks which will authorize the wall construction and site stabilization treatments to extend across the property boundary for a distance of approximately 20 feet onto state land. The retaining wall would extend approximately 10 feet north of the property boundary onto state land. The wall would be constructed of steel pile and concrete, approximately three feet tall and one foot thick. Native vegetation will need to be removed for several feet on either side of the proposed wall and beyond it to inspect the geophysical characteristics of the soil. Following wall construction, the area would be re-vegetated with native grasses. No trees would be removed on the state property. The issuance of the easement is expected to be completed during June-July 2009 and the repair and stabilization work would immediately follow.

EXEMPTION STATUS

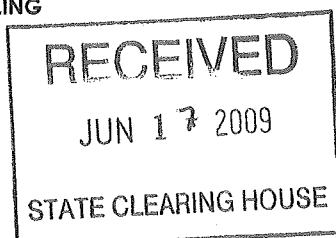
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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Categorical Exemption | Type/Section: | Class 1, | 14 CCR §15301 (b) - Existing Facilities |
| | | | and 4 | 14 CCR §15304 - Minor Alterations to Land |

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Statutory Exemption (state code section): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a)) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)) |

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The project fits within the descriptions of two classes of Categorical Exemptions to CEQA. These pertain to small-scale activities to repair existing public facilities involving no expansion of use (14 CCR §15301) and minor alterations to the condition of land and vegetation which does not include the removal of healthy, mature, and scenic trees (14 CCR §15304). To confirm that the project is indeed exempt and no unusual conditions exist at the project site, the Department reviewed a recently-completed Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (SCH #2002092045) which was prepared for a proposed facility replacement project. That EIR included comprehensive resource inventories and potential impact analysis of the entire state parcel including the small portion along the southern margin which would be treated with this project. CalFire has concluded that no environmental impacts will occur from this project.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING



 6/16/09

William E. Snyder, Deputy Director Date